

It is Claimed:

1. A substantially pure protein characterized by a physiologically active form and comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. The protein as in claim 1 having neurotrophic, growth or differentiation factor activity.

3. A composition comprising the protein of claim 1 and a physiologically acceptable carrier with which the peptide is admixed.

4. An oligonucleotide construct comprising a sequence coding for a protein and an expression vector operatively linked therewith, the protein having neurotrophic, growth or differentiation factor activity
5 and being expressible from SEQ ID NO:2.

5. The construct as in claim 4 wherein the expression vector is a mammalian or viral expression vector.

6. A substantially pure protein characterized by a physiologically active form and comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:8, or SEQ ID NO:10.

7. The protein as in claim 6 having neurotrophic, growth or differentiation factor activity.

8. A composition comprising the protein of claim 6 and a physiologically acceptable carrier with which the protein is admixed.

9. An oligonucleotide construct comprising a sequence coding for a protein and an expression vector operatively linked therewith, the protein being expressible from SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:10.

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10. The construct as in claim 9 wherein the protein is expressible in soluble form.

11. The construct as in claim 9 wherein the expression vector is a mammalian or viral expression vector.

12. A complex comprising a substantially pure frzb-1 protein complexed with at least one Wnt protein.

13. A substantially pure protein characterized by a physiologically active form and comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA of SEQ ID NO:6.

14. The protein as in claim 13 having mesoderm differentiation activity.

15. A composition comprising the protein of claim 13 and a physiologically acceptable carrier with which the protein is admixed.